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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/820,685	04/08/2004	Aurobinda Pradhan	13906-194001/2004P00155	8526
32864	7590	04/18/2007	U	
FISH & RICHARDSON, P.C. PO BOX 1022 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022			EXAMINER NGUYEN, CHAU T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2176	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/18/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/820,685

Applicant(s)

PRADHAN, AUROBINDA

Examiner

Chau Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-16,18 and 19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-16 and 18-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 01/31/2007 has been entered. Claims 1, 3-16 and 18-19 are pending. Claims 2 and 17 are canceled.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 1, 3-16 and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rivette et al (US 6389434, issued May 14, 2002) and further in view of Bendik, US Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0046224.**

4. **Regarding claims 1, 12 and 16, Rivette teaches displaying a view of a selectable electronic document on a graphical user interface. For example, Rivette discloses a method for creating subnotes linked to portions of data objects, where user**

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viewing a note can view sub-notes attached to the note in the source (col 4, lines 3-6) on a GUI on the screen (col 21, lines 55-58).

Rivette teaches receiving, while the view of the selected electronic document is being displayed, a predetermined user input generated with an input control to create a first new electronic document. For example, creating a sub-note in a note based on the requests from the user viewing the document, to display selected portion linked to the subnote attached to the note (col 4, lines 1-7).

Rivette teaches creating the first new electronic document in response to receiving a user input, wherein the selected electronic document and the first new electronic document are linked to each other, and wherein the input control is configured so that upon a view of the first new electronic document being displayed in the graphical user interface, the input control can be used to create a second new electronic document that is linked to the first new electronic document. For example, Rivette teaches creating sub-notes associated and linked to the note while note is being viewed by the user based on the user's request (col 2, lines 1-7; col 5, lines 40-55). Rivette is directed to a method of linking notes to data objects that enables a user to create a sub-note-in a note, and links the sub-note to the selected portion (col 3, line 65-col 4, line 5).

Rivette does not expressly teach predetermined user input, but does suggest it based on its disclosure. For example, Rivette discloses operations of the invention with menu options for creating a note/sub-note (col 5, lines 25-30).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to interpret Rivette's disclosure to include a menu options for creating

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notes/sub-notes as to suggest a predetermined user input, providing the benefit of organizing information such that the data objects that relate to a particular topic are associated with other data objects that are related to the same topic (Rivette, col 1, lines 49-53).

However, Rivette does not disclose the view being displayed in a computer system configured for creating any of a plurality of types of electronic documents selectively as either of (i) an independent electronic document that is not linked to any other electronic document upon its creation, and (ii) a linked electronic document that is linked to another electronic document upon its creation; and displaying a menu that is an input control in the graphical user interface, the menu comprising user-selectable commands associated with at least some of the plurality of types of electronic documents, wherein upon any of the user-selectable commands being generated there is created a linked electronic document having the corresponding type.

Bendik discloses a computer implemented method for managing documents including the steps of creating a document profile and linking the document profile to a file type that is not created within the document management system (page 1, paragraphs [0008]-[0010]). Bendik discloses in Figure 6A and page 4, paragraph [0053] a graphical user interface displayed for creating document templates based on software application and a document type, i.e., letter, memorandum, budget, etc. under the create menu, and a user or an administrator can define a template name, a relative path (link) for the template and an application associated with the template (also see Figure 6B). In addition, Bendik discloses the user also defines particular library that includes

an office location and a URL associated to each office specifying the name of the server and the path of the document storage (page 5, paragraph [0056]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Bendik with Rivette to include the view being displayed in a computer system configured for creating any of a plurality of types of electronic documents selectively as either of (i) an independent electronic document that is not linked to any other electronic document upon its creation, and (ii) a linked electronic document that is linked to another electronic document upon its creation; and displaying a menu that is an input control in the graphical user interface, the menu comprising user-selectable commands associated with at least some of the plurality of types of electronic documents, wherein upon any of the user-selectable commands being generated there is created a linked electronic document having the corresponding type for the purpose of developing improved document management systems.

5. **Regarding Claims 4, 11 and 19**, Rivette teaches predetermined user input specifies that the first new electronic document is a follow-up of the selected electronic document. For example, the user making a request to create a sub-note for a note by selecting command 5.2 from the Note Menu for Operation of the Invention (col 4, lines 2-5; col 5, lines 25-30).

6. **Regarding Claims 5 and 13**, Rivette teaches storing an identifier ... the first new electronic document to link them to each other. For example, storing the

notes/subnotes in the notes database with note identifier field as Note A (col 19, lines 20-23; col 25, lines 13-15).

7. **Regarding Claims 6 and 14**, Rivette teaches using the identifier ...while a view of the selected electronic document is being displayed, provide access to the first new electronic document. For example, subnotes linked to source materials where line 4230 is bi-directional from source to the note and back to the source (col 8, lines 24-30; Fig 31A and 31B).

8. **Regarding Claim 7 and 15**, Rivette teaches using the identifier ... while the view of the selected electronic document is being displayed, to provide access to the first new electronic document. For example, subnotes linked to source materials where line 4230 is bi-directional from source to the note and back to the source (col 8, lines 24-30), where in Fig 31B are linked to source document in 31A on the same user interface (col 8, lines 24-30; Fig 31A and Fig 31B).

9. **Regarding Claim 8**, Rivette teaches making a determination ... displayed; and generating ... determination. For example, displaying the sub-note based on the selected portion of the note on the display window screen (col 4, lines 1-10).

10. **Regarding claim 9**, Rivette teaches a first identifier ... a second identifier is stored in association with the first new electronic document to link them to each other.

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For example, bi-directional links allow users to navigate from objects to sub-notes via links (col 11, lines 25-30).

11. **Regarding claim 10**, Rivette teaches selected electronic document ... link them to each other. For example, since all of the notes and sub-notes can be embedded, from source to Note A to Note B to Note C, Note B is a third note that is associated to the source document via a linked list connecting source to note A and then Note A to Note B (col 25, lines 13-24).

12. **Regarding claims 3 and 18**, Rivette does not teach wherein the menu further includes another user-selectable command for creating the independent electronic document.

Bendik discloses in Figures 6A and 6B a document template includes create menu that a user can select on the create menu to create a document template.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Bendik with Rivette to include the menu further includes another user-selectable command for creating the independent electronic document for the purpose of developing improved document management systems.



### **Response to Arguments**

13. Applicant's arguments and amendments filed on 01/31/2007 have been fully considered but they are not deemed fully persuasive. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 12 and 16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection as explained here below, necessitated by Applicant's substantial amendment (i.e., the view being displayed in a computer system configured for creating any of a plurality of types of electronic documents selectively as either of (i) an independent electronic document that is not linked to any other electronic document upon its creation, and (ii) a linked electronic document that is linked to another electronic document upon its creation; and displaying a menu that is an input control in the graphical user interface, the menu comprising user-selectable commands associated with at least some of the plurality of types of electronic documents, wherein upon any of the user-selectable commands being generated there is created a linked electronic document having the corresponding type) to the claims which significantly affected the scope thereof.

### Conclusion

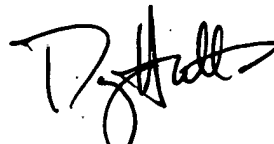
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chau Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4092. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon, can be reached at (571) 272-4136.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. On July 15, 2005, the Central Facsimile (FAX) Number will change from 703-872-9306 to 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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